



The Urban District Council of Tredegar

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1956



Southey, Printers, Merthyr.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

Dr. M. J. DONELAN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Tredegar Urban District Council

Chairman (1956) : Councillor E. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.

Chairman (1956) Public Health Committee : Councillor G. Tuffin

Chairman (1956) Housing Committee : Councillor Mrs. I. Powell

MEMBERS :

West Ward.

Councillor W. R. Phillips
Councillor D. T. J. Richards
Councillor J. Stockton
Councillor R. Williams

Georgetown Ward.

Councillor A. L. Coombes
Councillor R. G. Jones
Councillor J. B. McPherson
Councillor (Mrs.) I. Powell

Central Ward.

Councillor E. Davies
Councillor E. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.
Councillor G. H. Tuffin
Councillor J. H. D. Williams

Sirhowy Ward.

Councillor R. I. Davies
Councillor T. James, J.P.
Councillor E. Meyrick
Councillor D. R. Perry

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. M. J. Donelan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

O. Griffiths, M.R.S.H.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, 1937.

Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 1938.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1939.

Certificate of Food Hygiene, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1939.

Second Public Health Inspector :

K. O. Batten, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, 1937.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1939.

Senior Clerk : Miss E. G. Wright.

Junior Clerk : Mr. D. A. Cole (Left for National Service in H.M. Forces, October, 1955).

Temporary Junior Clerk : Miss M. B. Penny (Appointed December, 1955).

Cleansing Foreman : Mr. C. Brace.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Bedwellty House,
TREDEGAR Mon.
May, 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Tredegar Urban District Council.

Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I submit to you my Annual Report for the Year 1956, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular (M.O.H.) No. 2/1957 issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District :—

Parish of Tredegar	...	...	...	...	4,360 acres
Parish of Dukestown	...	...	...	...	3,788 acres
					—
					8,148 acres

Rateable Value of the District	...	...	...	...	£118,943
Estimated Product of Id. Rate	...	...	...	...	£405 0s. 0d.
Amount per Pound of Rates Levied for the District					
(Year Ended 31/3/57)				...	£1 2s. 0d.
Number of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	5,483

The population of the district reached its peak in the years 1924-25 when the figure given was 26,380. The depression during the years that followed brought a gradual exodus, especially of the younger people to more prosperous areas, resulting in a steady decline, leaving in 1939 an estimated population figure of 20,600. This drop continued somewhat during the war years, but an upward trend is again noted for the post war years and the Registrar General's estimate for 1956 is 20,290.

The natural and social conditions of the area fully described in earlier reports altered little during the year.

Geographically situated at the Northern entrance or gateway of the head of the Sirhowy Valley and lying on either side of the river Howy almost at its source, the district has an altitude of between 800 feet above sea level at Bedwellty Pits Village on the Southern extremity to 1,350 feet at Trefil Quarries in the North.

Physically, the upper portion of the district lies above the outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield upon the Farewell Rock or Millstone Grit and Limestone Rocks which still continue to give employment to a considerable number of workmen at the Quarries, feeding the limestone for use at the Ebbw Vale Steelworks. The lower portion of the district have on either side of the valley mountainous ridges, formed of Sandstone overlying the coal measures.

In shape, the map of the district resembles the form of a "kite" being over seven miles in its length through which the river Howy traverses, the mountain moorland in the northern limits stretching to a width of about three miles, tapering along the valley to a few furlongs in width at the southern extremity.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTH RATE.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births (Legitimate)	...	...	...	167	164	331
(Illegitimate)	...	...	...	3	3	6
				<hr/> 170	<hr/> 167	<hr/> 337

Producing a birth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 13.75 for 1955 ; 16.39 for 1954 ; 17.14 for 1953 ; 16.14 for 1952 ; 17.82 for 1951, 19.05 for 1950 ; 19.67 for 1948 and 21.35 for 1947.

Rate for County ... 15.29. Rate for England and Wales, 15.7.

Still Births (Legitimate)	...	...	...	9	6	15
(Illegitimate)	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/> 9	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 15

Rate for County ... 0.51. Rate for England and Wales ... 23.0.

Which gives a rate of 0.75 per 1,000 population as against .75 for 1955; .34 for 1954 ; 0.48 for 1953 ; 0.83 for 1952 ; 0.49 for 1951 and 0.88 for 1950 and 0.29 for 1949.

The still-birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) is as follows :

1956	...	...	...	...	42.6
1955	...	...	...	...	51.72
1954	...	...	...	...	21.08
1953	...	...	...	...	27.77
1952	...	...	...	...	49.27
1951	...	...	...	...	26.88
1950	...	...	...	...	44.33
1949	...	...	...	...	15.26
1948	...	...	...	...	22.44
1939	...	...	...	...	57.69

DEATH RATE.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General, the number of deaths during 1956 was :—

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
134	99	233

Resulting in a death rate per 1,000 population of 11.4.

Rate for County ... 11.96. Rate for England and Wales ... 11.7.

Comparable figures for earlier years were :—

1946	...	11.77 ;	1945	...	10.74 ;	1944	...	11.54
1930	...	10.37 ;	1914	...	17.90 ;	1901	...	19.33

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

There were no maternal deaths in the district during the year.

The rate for 1956 per 1,000 (live and still) births is as follows :—

Mon. Admins. County	...	...	1.07
TREDEGAR U.D.	...	...	0.00

For the earlier ten years the number of maternal deaths for the district were :—

1955	...	Nil	1949	...	1
1954	...	1	1948	...	Nil.
1953	...	Nil	1947	...	1
1952	...	Nil	1946	...	Nil.
1951	...	1	1945	...	1
1950	...	1			

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one month :

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	Nil.	1
Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births, 11.8. Rate for County, 19.92.			

Deaths of infants under one year :—

	Males	Females	Total,
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 20.7.

Rate for County, 28.96.

Rate for England and Wales, 23.9.

A few comparative figures for past years are given below :—

1955	...	51.66	1942	...	62.03
1954	...	47.2	1941	...	78.88
1953	...	50.00	1924	...	73.4
1952	...	48.78	1914	...	125.00
1947	...	47.28	1904	...	190.00
1944	...	58.08			

The rate of legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births was 27.2.

Statistical Tables appertaining to your district are appended to the Report.

A comparison of the vital statistics of the district with those for England and Wales also for the County for 1956 are set out in the accompanying tabulation :—

	BIRTH RATE.		DEATH RATE.	
	Live births per 1,000 population.	Still births per 1,000 population.	All ages per 1,000 population.	Under 1 yr. per 1,000 population
England and Wales	15.7	0.37	11.7	23.9
Monmouthshire	16.76	0.51	11.96	28.96
TREDEGAR U.D.	16.6	0.74	11.4	20.70

Comparability Factors : Births, 1.00 Deaths, 1.16

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications.

A Table of the case rates per 1,000 Home Population of corrected notifications received during the year 1956 for the district with corresponding figures for 1955 for comparison is set out below.

Maybe there were a number of "missed" or non-notified cases of the commoner infectious diseases, even so, allowing for a reasonable margin in this respect, the incidence of infectious diseases was fairly low. Reference to Table II will give further details of age groups.

	<i>Tredegar Urban Area</i>	
	1955	1956
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	.25
Whooping Cough ... ..	.1	.1
Diphtheria	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	4.75	.9
Pneumonia ... ..	.1	.05
Ac. Poliomyelitis (inc. Pol. encephalitis) :		
Paralytic	—	.05
Non-Paralytic	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	.05	.2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	.05
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	.1

The average age at death for the year :—

Males 65.6 years (as against 64.3 for 1955).

Females 68.8 yrs. (as against 69.0 for 1955).

Males and Females 67.0 years (as against 66.6 for 1955).

TUBERCULOSIS

The state of the Tuberculosis Register for the district at the commencement and at the close of 1956 was as follows :

	Males.		Females.		Total
	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non-Pul.</i>	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non-Pul.</i>	
1st Jan., 1956 ...	104	72	132	47	355
31st Dec., 1956 ...	111	73	136	47	367

Statistics showing the number of new cases and mortality during the year, arranged in age groups, are given in Table III at the end of the Report. For comparison, the figures for 1956 and several previous years are given below :

Year	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulm'ry</i>
1956 ...	13	1	1	—
1955 ...	30	3	4	2
1954 ...	29	4	5	—
1953 ...	23	3	13	1
1952 ...	20	5	8	2
1951 ...	26	11	9	2
1950 ...	38	10	6	2
1949 ...	25	10	12	5
1948 ...	33	4	13	2

The total number of notifications of admission to (Form 1) and discharge from (Form 2) Institutions during the year were :—

	Males.		Females.	
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulm'ry</i>
Admissions ...	18	1	12	—
Discharges ...	18	2	17	1

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1926 Relating to persons employed in the Milk Trade or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

It was found necessary for the Council to arrange for the destruction of soiled bedding.

In conclusion, I again take the opportunity to express my appreciation of the continued and willing support of the Council and the loyal service rendered the Department by the Officers and all the members of the staff through the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

M. J. DONELAN,

M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

TABLE I.
CAUSES OF DEATH.
(Registrar General's Return)

	1956		
	M.	F.	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	0	2
Other infective and parastic diseases	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	7	4	11
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	0	4
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm uterus	0	2	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	6	12
Leucaemia, Aleucaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	19	37
Coronary disease, angina	20	8	28
Hypertension with heart disease... ..	9	10	19
Other heart disease	18	20	38
Other circulatory disease	6	3	9
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	5	5	10
Bronchitis	8	2	10
Other disease of respiratory system	6	1	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations... ..	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	3	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	0	2
Other accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	3	0	3
Syphilitic Diseases... ..	1	0	1
ALL CAUSES	134	99	233

Population 20,290

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during
1956 according to age groups.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	5	1	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE IV

INFANTILE MORTALITY — 1955.

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<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Under 1 wk.</i>	<i>1-2 weeks.</i>	<i>2-3 weeks</i>	<i>3-4 weeks</i>	<i>Total under 1 m'th</i>	<i>1-3 months</i>	<i>3-6 months</i>	<i>6-9 months</i>	<i>9-12 months</i>	<i>Total under 1 yr.</i>
Heart Diseases 	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia 	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	3
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS 	3	—	—	1	4	—	2	—	1	7

REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR
(O. GRIFFITHS, M.R.S.H.)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Public Health Department,

Bedwellty House,

TREDEGAR, Mon.

May, 1957

*To the Chairman and Members of the Tredegar Urban District Council.**Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,*

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1956.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.**Section I.****WATER.**

The water area of the authority has been well supplied and every effort made to maintain a high standard of purity.

The total quantity of water filtered during the year was :—

At the Nantybwlch Filtration Plant ... 442,361,000 galls.

At the Georgetown Filtration Plant ... 75,011,000 galls.

Of this amount :—

128,545,000 galls were supplied in bulk to the BEDWELTY U.D.C.

2,790,239 galls. were supplied in bulk to the RHYMNEY U.D.C.

Approximate number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains :—

			<i>Dwelling houses.</i>		<i>Population.</i>
(a) Total in District	...	...	5,483	...	20,290
(b) Direct service to houses	...	...	5,470	...	20,238
(c) Standpipes	...	...	13	...	52

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

	<i>Satisfactory.</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Raw</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Raw</i>	<i>Treated</i>	
TREDEGAR U.D.	1	32	32	3	68

All samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newport.

CLIMATOLOGICAL STATION.

Latitude	...	...	...	...	...	...	51° 46' North.
Longitude	...	...	...	...	...	...	3° 22' West.
Height above m.s.l.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1028 feet.
Grid Reference	...	...	...	...	...	...	31/141087
Air Ministry Ref. No. (M.O.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4007/5.

The Council embarked on this scientific work in January, 1949, and observations were commenced in January, 1950. The main difficulty was in siting the instruments satisfactorily, but in June, 1951, an ideal site was obtained in the swimming bath enclosure and the equipment was set up here towards the end of 1951. The station was inspected by a Meteorological Officer of the Air Ministry in the following month.

All the instruments are of standard design and carry certificates of correction by the National Physical Laboratory or the Meteorological Office. Observations of maximum and minimum temperature, wet and dry bulb temperature, humidity, vapour pressure, dew point, grass minimum temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure and sunshine are taken daily throughout the year at 09.00 hours, G.M.T.

All temperatures, except grass minimum, are taken from thermometers exposed in Stevensons Screens standing 4 feet above a grass plot, and are expressed in degrees F. Pressure readings are expressed in millibars and the readings are corrected for temperature, height above m.s.l. latitude and Index Error.

The station barometer is a Kew pattern and only reads correctly at a temperature of 285 deg. A. on 52 deg. N latitude at m.s.l. Any deviations from these conditions must be corrected. Rainfall is measured in inches and collected in a standard 5-inch raingauge.

Instruments in use at present consist of :—

Maximum Thermometer, solid stem	...	...	No. M.O.21590
Minimum Thermometer, solid stem	...	...	No. M.O.66104/49
Wet Bulb Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.72135/42
Dry Bulb Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.72634/45
Grass Minimum Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.30378/49
Kew pattern Station Barometer	...	...	No. 3412/49
M.O. pattern Thermograph	...	...	No. M.O.1384/50
M.O. pattern Hygrograph	...	...	No. M.O.954/45
M.O. pattern Open Scale Barograph	...	...	No. M.O. 146/44
B.R.O. pattern 5-inch Raingauge	...	...	No. M.O.4679/48
M.O. pattern-taper measure	...	...	No. M.O.9497/47
Campbell Stokes pattern Sunshine—Recorder	...	...
	Bowl	...	No. M.O.367/50
	Sphere	...	No. M.O. 1570/50

Dynes Tilting Syphon Rain Gauge ... No. M.O. 651
Thermometers and autographic instruments housed in two-Standard Stevenson Screens.

Summaries of observations are published each month in the "Monthly Weather Report" and each year in the "General Table" of British Rainfall, both of the Air Ministry.

The Station was visited and inspected by a Scientific Officer of the Air Ministry in October

CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

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	Temperatures			Mean Temps.			Pressure			Rainfall		Days with Rain	Days with Snow	Nights with Ground Frost	Sunshine	Duration of rain
	Max.	Min.	Mean	Day	Night	M'th	Max.	Min.	Mean	Total	Wettest Day					
JAN.	°F 52	°F 24	°F 14	°F 42.8	°F 32.5	°F 37.65	mbs. 1032.8	mbs. 971.6	mbs. 1002.2	ins. 7.86	ins. 1.37	16	8	21	hrs. 45.1	hrs. 38.4
FEB.	48	9	2	34.9	24.2	29.55	1038.5	1006.0	1002.2	.82	.29	5	9	27	76.7	Not recorded
MAR.	56	24	12	47.5	31.6	39.55	1031.5	987.3	1009.4	2.87	.49	14	1	16	131.4	36.2
APR.	58	28	18	52.1	35.3	43.7	1027.7	996.9	1012.3	2.24	.36	13	—	19	169.0	60.6
MAY	70	30	24	57.	42.3	49.65	1029.1	1008.8	1018.9	1.72	.57	8	—	6	223.2	29.2
JUNE	74	38	33	62.03	48.7	55.36	1030.2	995.0	1012.6	4.44	.96	15	—	—	179.4	63.4
JULY	73	42	36	65.	51.	58.00	1026.0	973.2	999.6	6.63	1.20	18	—	—	132.2	86.6
AUG.	68	40	35	60.19	47.9	54.04	1023.3	990.9	1007.1	6.29	1.02	17	—	—	111.2	101.9
SEP.	72	41	35	60.3	50.3	55.3	1024.1	997.4	1010.7	6.94	2.06	16	—	—	55.6	102.2
OCT.	63	31	22	53.9	41.2	47.55	1032.2	990.1	1011.1	2.05	.48	17	—	8	107.7	58.3
NOV.	56	28	19	46.1	37.2	41.65	1035.0	1000.2	1017.6	1.98	.64	11	1	14	48.3	46.4
DEC.	52	22	16	45.4	36.4	40.9	1031.1	979.7	1005.4	10.97	1.93	20	3	11	23.4	73.5 +
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.81	—	170	22	122	1303.2	696.7
Means	61.83	29.75	22.16	52.26	39.88	46.07	1030.1	991.4	1010.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Open Air Swimming Bath.

Situated in ideal surroundings and within the precincts of Bedwellty Park, the open air swimming pool continues to be a great attraction to the younger element for healthy exercise and recreation. Regular instruction is given in life saving and these classes have proved very popular. Samples of water are taken throughout the season and all proved satisfactory.

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of Bathers ...	27,401	13,474	66,698	29,557
Number of Spectators ...	4,966	2,567	9,882	3,504

The very poor summer shows a considerable reduction in the numbers attending.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole of the district is provided with subsidiary stone-ware sewers, which are linked up to the main sewers, laid along the river bed. The Western Valley's (Mon.) Sewerage Board (of which the Council is a constituent authority) have control of the trunk sewers.

The cleansing and repair of choked or defective drainage systems, both public and private is pressed immediately upon receipt of complaint or noted during inspection.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Howy, with a small number of tributaries, traverses the length of the district. Every vigilance is exercised to prevent the dumping of refuse along its banks.

Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is almost universal throughout the area. An estimate of the number of each type of closet is as follows :—

(1) Number of pail or privy closets (including several of the chemical type) to isolated farms, cottages and other premises where no sewer is available	47
(2) Number of closets with fixed receptacles	7
(3) Number of closets with moveable receptacles	5
(4) Number of closets with flushing apparatus	3958
(5) Number of closets (hand flushed)	2462

Section 2.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Throughout the year this vital Sanitary and Public Health Service was regularly maintained, the frequency of which is shown in the accompanying table.

The area was again subjected to nuisances caused by straying animals but it is hoped that in the very near future the employment of a shepherd will abate this persistent trouble.

The present pound is difficult of access and becomes boggy in wet weather. An additional pound is to be sited near the centre of the town and this will considerably improve the present method of "round ups" and will minimise delay in transport.

During the year refuse has been deposited at Brompton and No. 4 tips. On all sites modified controlled tipping is practised and the efficiency of the method is best illustrated by the absence of rodents and nuisances. A labourer is employed full time on each tip to control the tipping and maintain the surface in a tidy and clean condition.

DETAILS OF REFUSE COLLECTION.

The district is divided into five areas for refuse collection with a driver and two loaders allocated to each vehicle, a sixth vehicle being held in reserve.

Area.	Streets	Days per Week
GEORGETOWN	Fields Rd., Ashville, Villas, Hill View, Oakfield Rd., Lower and Upper James St., Walter St., Southend, Georgetown Schools, Gladstone Place, Poplar Place, Rhyd Villas and Troedrhigwair	5
	Kimberly Tce., Richmond Tce., York Tce., Elmwood, Victoria Tce., Alexander Tce., Edward Tce., Police Station, Prospect Place, Bowens Tce., Park Place, Glyn Tce., Woodfield Rd., Whitworth Tce., St. James Hospital, Rhyd Tce., and Arthur St. ...	6
	Bedwellty Pits, Heathfield and Pochin	3
	Red and White Depot	2
	Total number of premises, Georgetown Area	1170

CENTRAL	Duke St., Iron Row, Iron St., Bridge St., Vale Tce., Pochin Crescent, Brompton Place, Cottage Homes, Market St., Castle St., The Circle, Morgan St., Park Hill, Park Row, Harcourt Tce., Islwyn Tce. ...	6
	Morgan Street, Inkerman Tce., Parkville, Upper and Lower Salisbury St., Park View, Pencoed, Cefn Rhos, Cwm Rhos, Upper and Lower Coronation Street, Shop Row and Vale View	5
	Cefn Golau, Aberffrwyd, Tredegar Station	3
	Total number of premises, Central Area ...	1118

WEST AREA	Queen Sq., Red Lion Sq., Commercial St., Mount St., Picton St., High St., Earl St., Bournville, West Hill, Glandovey Tce., George St., Union St. ...	6
	Tanybank, Griffiths Gardens and Square, North Ave., Bevans Ave., Pembroke St., Brynbach St., Greenwood Ave., Isolation Hosp., The Crescent, Fairview Bung., Maple Ave., Laburnum Ave., Sycamore Ave.	5
	Total number of Premises, West Area ...	1150

SIRHOWY and DUKESTOWN	Alexandra Place, Railway View, Nursery Tce., Charles St., Arnold Place, Dukestown Rd., Butleigh Tce., Scwrfa, Dukestown, Twyn Star	6
	Tafarnaubach, Tynewydd, Lwynhelyg, Penybont Station Tce., Pantydwr, Bush Bach, Station Road, White Lion Cottages, Minyrafon, Rear Ashvale, Waundeg	5
	Trefil Quarries, Trefil Village	4
	Awelfa	3
	Coach Bach	2
	Total number of Premises, Sirhowy and Dukestown area	1060

BEAUFORT ROAD AREA	Beaufort Rd., Rhoslan, Brynbicca, Ladies Row, King St., Tredegar Tce., Howy Tce., Harford St., Mafeking Tce., part Kimberley Tce., Pretoria Tce., Ladysmith Tce., Buller Tce., Colenzo Tce., Roberts Tce., Greenfield Tce., Bethel Ave., Post Office, Workman's Hall, George St., Pond Row, Temple St., Church Sq., Polar Pl., St. Georges Place ...	6
	Peacehaven, rear Morgan St., Vaughan's Yard, Carpenters Yard, Four Rows	5
	Gelli Cottages	4
	Upper and Lower Mount Pleasant, Penmark ...	2
	Total Number of Premises, Beaufort Rd. Area	1030

Vehicles :

No additions were made to the refuse collecting fleet during the year. The present fleet consists of :—

- 2 Austin, 10 cubic yard freighters.
- 1 Bedford, 10 cubic yard freighter.
- 2 Karrier Bantam, 8 cubic yard freighters.
- 1 Fordson 10 cubic yard freighter.
- 1 Fordson 10 h.p. 2 cubic yard freighter.
- 1 Karrier Gully Emptier and Street Cleaner.

Six vehicles are on the road daily, one being kept at the yard for maintenance and as a spare. The 2 cubic yard Fordson is used for collecting at points which are inaccessible to the larger vehicles and for the weekly collection of boiler ashes from St. James Hospital.

The garage staff under the direction of the chief mechanic are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have maintained the vehicles. On no occasion during the year has a vehicle failed to complete its particular beat owing to mechanical fault.

Sickness.

The high incidence of sickness continues to throw a heavy burden on the Department. The following table shows the time lost per month in days throughout the year. There was a saving of 638 working days on the year previous.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July and Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
207	116	103	40	109	64	88	42	105	125	92
TOTAL ...				1091						

COST STATEMENT 1955—1956.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Items	Particulars	Totals		
		£	s.	d.
1	Gross Expenditure :			
	(1) Labour	10,117	5	11
	(2) Transport	2,485	8	3
	(3) Plant Buildings Land	25	0	0
	(4) Other items	—		
	Total gross expenditure ...	12,627	14	2
2	Gross Income	280	8	6
3	Net Cost	12,347	5	8

Street and Gully Cleansing.

Item.	Particulars.	Total		
		£	s.	d.
1	Gross Expenditure :			
	(1) Labour	3,773	14	3
	(2) Transport	88	7	10
	(3) Plant, Equipment and Buildings	—		
	(4) Other Items	272	16	4
	(5) Gross Expenditure ...	4,134	18	5
2	Gross Income : (Excluding reimbursements)	10	10	0
3	Net Cost	4,124	8	5
4	Capital Expenditure met from revenue	Nil.		
5	Gross expenditure on snow clearance not included previously	Nil.		

Street Cleansing.

Every effort has been made to man all sweeping beats throughout the year, but the high incidence of sickness has made this part of the service extremely difficult to carry out fully.

Straying animals again played their part in adding to the difficulties experienced by the department in trying to maintain some standard of cleanliness in the street and highways. It is hoped that a more positive approach to this problem in the employment of a shepherd will considerably minimise this persistent nuisance and enable the street cleaners to carry on their normal duties.

During the year 60 dead sheep and 4 dead horses were buried as a result of road and rail accidents.

Refuse Collection and Disposal and Public Cleansing.

Most parts of the town are served with a daily collection of refuse and this is disposed of by controlled tipping well away from the town centre.

Street gullies are cleansed regularly by a modern gully cleanser and during period of dry weather all the roads in the shopping centre are regularly sprayed and washed.

Round-ups were again organised during the year under review and the following animals impounded : horses, 33 ; sheep, 274.

Street Washing.

Sprinkling of the streets was again carried out during the dry and dusty periods of the year and gullies resealed where required.

Snow Clearance.

The Departments vehicles were again made available to the Surveyor's Department in assisting in the clearance of snow and this cooperation resulted in a minimum delay in transport even over the Christmas period when heavy falls of snow were experienced throughout the district.

Operational Statistics.

Mileage of streets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	50
Frequency of cleansing :—						
At least once daily	...	...	...	...	...	7%
Three to five times weekly			...	...	...	90%
Twice weekly	...	...	...	...	...	2%
Once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	1%
Less than once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	—

Public Conveniences.

These are situated as follows :—

<i>Male Conveniences :</i>	<i>Waterclosets.</i>	<i>Urinals.</i>
The Crown, Nantybwhc ...	Nil.	1
Beaufort Road, Sirhowy ...	Nil.	1
Church Street ...	1	1
Commercial Street ...	3	1
Park Row ...	2	1
Vale Terrace ...	Nil.	1

Female Conveniences :

Morgan Street ...	3
Castle Street ...	2
Park Row ...	2

Roads and Highways.

Of the total or approximately 43 miles of roads in the district, 13,240 miles are classified as under :—

(a) TRUNK ROAD A.465 :

Merthyr—Abergavenny Road. From Waenpound to the boundary of Rhymney U.D. at Princetown ... 2.50 miles

(b) CLASS I ROAD A.4048 :

From Sirhowy Bridge to Pochin (Northern Boundary of Bedwellty U.D. ... 4.01 miles

(c) CLASS II ROAD B.4256 :

From Queen Victoria Street to the Rhymney U.D. boundary at Heath Cock ... 1.39 miles

(d) CLASS III ROADS.

From A.465 near Crown Inn, Nantybwhc to Quarrymen's Arms, Trefil ... 1.85 miles.
 From A.465 near Railway Hotel to Station Road near Crown Inn, Nantybwhc ... 1.21 miles.
 From A.4048 at Morgan Street via Shop Row to Ebbw Vale U.D. Boundary near Mountain Air Gate ... 1.11 miles.
 From B.4256 near Cefn Golau Cemetery to U.D. Boundary South of Mountain Ash Inn ... 1.13 miles.
 From A.865 along mountain to Groespenmaen via. Manmoel 2.88 miles.

Housing.

Housing in its various aspects remains the main problem of Tredegar and the major part of the duties of the Public Health Department has been concerned with Slum Clearance. Work was completed to enable the Council to make Clearance Orders on eight areas of unfit dwellings. Of these, the Ministry confirmed four without modification, but in the remaining four, Public Inquiries were held, which resulted in the orders being confirmed without modification.

Details of all Clearance Orders made since the commencement of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme are seen in the accompanying table.

Up to the 31st December, 1956, 13 clearance orders have been made which form a major contribution to the Council's ambitious Slum Clearance Programme. Some of the oldest houses in the district are on the point of disappearing, houses which in their life time have seen the rise of the Town from a small hamlet to the important industrial centre it is today.

In addition to clearance areas, 20 closing orders and 1 demolition order have been made on individual unfit houses. Details of these are seen in the accompanying table.

While the Council have made plain their determination to clear away all unfit housing property, they have also had a thought for these that are just substandard, i.e., houses that are structurally sound but lacking amenities such as bathrooms, modern cooking appliances, etc. By implementing section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, the Council have been able to make grants up to £400 to enable owners to modernise otherwise substandard houses. These grants can be considered as gifts as they are not repayable to the Local Authority and apart from the conditions set out in the Housing Act, no ties are attached to them.

The conditions briefly are :—

(1) The property after improvement must have a useful life for at least 15 years, and must also conform with the following twelve points :—

- (a) General repair.
- (b) Light and ventilation.
- (c) Water Supply.
- (d) Hot water supply.
- (e) W.C. accommodation.
- (f) Bathing facilities.
- (g) Sink and disposal of waste water.
- (h) Drainage.
- (i) Artificial light.
- (j) Heating facilities.
- (k) Storage, preparation and cooking of food.
- (l) Fuel storage.

(2) The property after improvement must either be occupied by the applicant or a member of his family or be let at a rental to be fixed by the Local Authority.

The important thing to remember is, that grants are not made to renovate or repair an unfit house, they are made to modernise a substandard house, i.e. a house lacking modern amenities.

During the year 16 grants were made which involved 58 visits by this Department. The total amount incurred was £3,876.

Name of Order	Properties	Date operative	Whether tenants rehousing	Whether demolished
Iron Row District (No. 1)	14, 15, 16, 18, 19 Upper Coronation Street, 25, 29 Iron Street, Talbot 20, 23 to 28, 32 to 37 Iron Row, 1a Duke Street	11th January, 1956	Yes	14, 15, 16 Upper Coronation Street demolished, and all others except 29 Iron Street
Iron Row District (No. 2)	9, 10, 11 Duke Street	23rd December, '55	Yes	Owner has requested Council to demolish
Iron Row District (No. 3)	21, 22 Upper Coronation St.	2nd December, '55	Yes	Demolished
Iron Row District (No. 4)	23-25 Upper Coronation St.	2nd December, '55	Yes	No
Howy Terrace and Beaufort Road	1-5 Howy Terrace and 21 Beaufort Road	3rd August, 1956	Yes	No
Gelli Cottages	1, 2, 2 Back, 3 and 3 Back Gelli Cottages	3rd August, 1956	Yes	No
Pond Row	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 Pond Row	4th July, 1956	Yes	No
Iron Row & part Bridge Street	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Iron Row, 21 Bridge Street	4th July, 1956	Yes	No
Iron Row and part Iron Street	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 Iron Row, 2 Iron Street	4th July, 1956	Yes (except 19 Iron Row)	No.
Upper Coronation Street	32, 33 and 34 Upper Coronation Street	13th October, 1956	Yes	No
Iron Street (No. 5)	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 15a, 16, 17 Iron Street	13th October, 1956	In process of being rehoused. 3 families left	No
Upper Mount Pleasant	160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167 Upper Mt. Pleasant	25th January, 1957	Yes, except 160 and 162	No
Iron Street (No. 6)	27 and 28 Iron Street	7th December, 1956	Yes.	Yes

List of Individual Unfit Houses
Closed, Closed in Lieu of Demolition or Demolished
Up to 31st December, 1956.

<i>Address of Property.</i>	<i>Date Order Made.</i>	<i>Closed, Closed in lieu of Demolition, or Demolished.</i>
29 Queen Street ...	10th Jan., 1956	Closure in lieu of Demolition
14 Iron Street ...	31st Jan., 1956	do. do. do.
80a Commercial Street	31st Jan., 1956	do. do. do.
1 Bush Bach ...	14th Feb., 1956	do. do. do.
6 Tanybank ...	28th Feb., 1956	do. do. do.
1 Forge Row ...	28th Feb., 1956	do. do. do.
Powder House, West Hill	28th Feb., 1956	Demolition Order
17 Red Lion Square ...	24th April, 1956	Closure in lieu of Demolition
17 Back Church Street ...	24th April, 1956	Closing Order
25 Back Bridge St. ...	24th April, 1956	Closure in lieu of Demolition
2 Cross Row ...	12th June, 1956	do. do. do.
1 Mechanic Square ...	12th June, 1956	do. do. do.
2 Mechanic Square ...	12th June, 1956	do. do. do.
Club House, Trefil ...	10th July, 1956	do. do. do.
1 Tabernacle Cottages ...	10th July, 1956	do. do. do.
11a Charles Street ...	10th July, 1956	do. do. do.
5 Market Street ...	10th July, 1956	do. do. do.
1a Mafeking Terrace ...	10th July, 1956	Closing Order
Temple House ...	31st July, 1956	Closure in lieu of Demolition
87 Mills Terrace ...	31st July, 1956	do. do. do.
32 Bridge Street ...	11th Sept., 1956	do. do. do.
Brynbach Cottage ...	4th Oct., 1956	Undertaking to demolish upon vacation.
12 Back High Street ...	12th Dec., 1956	Undertaking to close.

21 Closing Orders were made and two Undertakings were given by owners to close or demolish upon vacation.

Loan for House Purchase.
Housing Act, 1949, Section 4.

The Council has continued to make advances for house purchase during the year. The amount advanced is 90% of the valuation arrived at by the Council's Engineer/Surveyor, Mr. F. R. Wharton.

Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1949, which empowers Local Authorities to advance money for this purpose sets out certain conditions that have to be fulfilled.

The Local Authority, before advancing money for the purpose of house purchase, must *satisfy* themselves that the house to be acquired is or will be made in all respects fit for human habitation.

Section 9 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, describes in detail the exact meaning of the phrase "...in all respects fit."

A very large number of applications for loans are from persons wishing to purchase houses that are neither in all respects fit, nor capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense, and in many cases are only suitable for demolition and clearance, but nevertheless they command high prices out of all relation to their value. It is only when the Council refuse to grant loans on these dwellings that the prices are drastically slashed.

Inspections are made to all houses before loans are granted and a detailed report of their condition is submitted to the Council together with an opinion as to whether they are suitable for loan. In many cases the houses, though fundamentally fit, need repair and in these instances a schedule of necessary works is attached to the detailed report.

During the year 29 loans were made amounting to £17,345. In addition £3,347 was loaned for the repair and improvement of properties under mortgage to the Council.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere.

A.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED :

<i>In Clearance Areas :</i> (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).	<i>Houses d'm'd</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>	
		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	24	92	24
(2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc. ...	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 27 Housing Act, 1936	—	—	—
<i>Not in Clearance Areas :</i>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal action under Sec. II Housing Act, 1936	3	11	3
B.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :			
(5) Under Sec. II Housing Act, 1936 and Secs. 10 (1) & 11 (2) Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953	21	96	27
(6) Under Secs. 3 (1 & 2) Housing Act, 1949	—	—	—
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 12 Housing Act, 1936	1	10	1

C.-UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by local authority ...	21	—
(9) After formal notice : Public Health Acts ...	15	—
Housing Acts ...	—	—
(10) Under Sec. 5 Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 ...	—	—

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under
 Public Health or Housing Acts ... 137
 Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 210
 Number of Council houses inspected ... 490

Housing Progress.

Total number of dwelling houses in the district ... 5,483
 Number of dwelling houses owned and controlled by the Local

Authority :—

Pre- War ... 487
 Post- War ... 811
 Total ... 1,298

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end
 of year ... 880

Houses Erected during the Year.

	Temporary Prefabricated.	Permanent.
By Local Authority ...	Nil.	168
By Private Enterprise ...	Nil.	4

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Sec. 4

(Certificates of Disrepair).

Applications.	Granted.	Refused.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The regular inspection of food premises was maintained during the year and all licenced premises received a detailed inspection. Considerable improvements are to be effected to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. All public houses were visited with representatives of the Brewery and this practise of cooperation has also proved successful with branch inspectors of the larger food premises.

Inspection of Food Premises.

Premises.	Number of Visits.
Butchers ...	65
Confectioners, Grocers and Greengrocers ...	99
Fishmongers and Poulterers ...	52
Fried Fish Shops ...	6
Icecream Premises ...	20
Markets and Stalls ...	52
Cafes ...	17
Slaughterhouses ...	489
Unsound Food ...	80
Licensed Premises ...	54

<i>Defects Remedied.</i>	<i>Baker's and Food Prep'rs</i>	<i>Grocers and G'gr'crs</i>	<i>Wet and F'd Fish Shops</i>	<i>Butch'rs</i>	<i>Licensed Premises</i>
Dirty Conditions ...	4	2	2	3	—
Defective structure and furnishings ...	1	2	—	—	1
Cleansing & decoration	4	9	2	3	1
Washing facilities and hot water supply ...	1	—	—	—	3
Defective sanitary accom- modation and drainage	Nil.	3	Nil.	Nil.	5
Insufficient food storage & and fly proofing ...	Nil.	3	Nil.	Nil.	1

Total Number of defects remedied ... 50.

Food Poisoning.

There were four cases of food poisoning during the year, the causes being unknown.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

There are two slaughterhouses in the area, one leased from the Local Authority by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and one licenced as a private slaughterhouse at Highfield, Nantybwlch. The latter slaughterhouse is in excellent condition and complies fully with all regulations.

The slaughterhouse occupied by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation requires considerable improvements and these matters are still being considered by the Council. However, with all these difficulties, the Corporation have conducted themselves in a satisfactory manner. Ante mortem inspection of all animals is carried out as far as practicable and post mortem inspection of all animals is ensured by regular attendance during the slaughtering periods.

Meat is distributed from the slaughterhouse in modern transport vans which are always kept in a hygienic condition and adequate facilities are provided for the staff in the way of overalls to ensure clean handling of meat.

Since the employment of a permanent Meat Inspector at Brynmawr it has not been found necessary to inspect all deliveries to the local butcher shops from that area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number Killed ...	1070	21	463	9247	2990	Nil.
Number Inspected	1070	21	463	9247	2990	Nil.
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	2	14	17	1	Nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	403	3	1	269	63	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	37.8	23.8	3.23	3.09	2.14	Nil.
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	1	Nil.	1	Nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	23	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	57	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis. ...	2.2	4.76	0.21	Nil.	1.9	Nil.
<i>Cysticercosis :</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

						Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
TUBERCULOSIS :									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...				—	12	2	6
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	2	10
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	—	15	1	9
Total	...	...	...			1	11	1	25
NON-TUBERCULOSIS :									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...				1	15	2	21
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	16	—	12
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	2	5
Total	...	...	...			5	1	1	10
Total amount—Tuberculosis and Non-Tuberculosis						6	12	3	7
OTHER FOODS :									
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...			2	9
Butter	...	...	...	...	...				1½
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...		5		
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...			1	4½
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...				11½
Ham	...	...	...	...	...			1	25
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...				2½
Ham and Tongue	...	...	...	...	...				5½
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...			3	27
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	...				2½
Rice	...	...	...	...	...				1
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...			1	4
Total	...	...	...				7	3	9

Cucumbers, 51 ; Fish Cakes, 12 ; Pork Pies, 5 ; Tins, 1442.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk is imported, all consisting of bottled milk from Heat Treatment Plants at Merthyr and Trecynon.

There is one Heat Treatment Plant at Tredegar of the Holder type.

This plant received periodic inspection and samples are taken regularly.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of Licences issued	...	...	...	28
Dealers Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	14
Dealers Licence to retail T.T. Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	13
Number of Dairymen registered	...	...	...	15
Dealers Licence to retail Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	1

Milk Samples

Designation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised...	44	Nil	44
Pasteurised	60	2	62
Sterilised	21	Nil	21
	<hr/> 125	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 127

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947 to 1952.

Registration of Premises.

Manufacturers (Cold Mix)	...	...	...	5
Retailers	...	...	...	59

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Grade.	Number.	Percentage.
1	16	80
2	2	10
3	1	5
4	1	5

Number of visits to Ice-Cream Premises ... 20.

The bulk of the ice-cream consumed in the area is prepacked and supplied by the larger distributor manufacturers.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS. SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Number of visits 167.

Defects.	Remedied.
Inadequate washing facilities	1
Inadequate temperature	1

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Number of Factories on Register ... 66. No. of Inspections ... 19.

Defects found in Factories.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i>	<i>Number of Prosecutions Instituted.</i>
Nuisances under Public Health Act.	1	1	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	—
Factories Act Sanitary Accommodation Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	—

Factories Act, 1937, Section 34.

Provision of Suitable Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

A number of factories were inspected during the year and three Certificates of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire were issued.

These Certificates set out in detail the means of escape provided in each factory but on visiting factories in the area and asking to be shown the Certificate, all too often I found it has been filed away deep in the recesses of the general office. The Certificate should be exhibited for all to see and all employees should be made aware of the means of escape in his or her place of work.

All exits and staircases set out on the Certificate should be kept clear of obstructions and all quick release panic bolts maintained in good order so that in case of emergency they work as intended.

Factories in the area that were visited during the year were found generally satisfactory while the canteens which are today a part of the factory system were found in an excellent condition without exception, hygiene being given high priority in them all.

Teat Baiting of Sewers.

<i>Manholes baited</i>	<i>Complete takes</i>	<i>Part takes</i>	<i>No takes</i>
663	150	64	449

Number of Visits to Premises.

By Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	9
By Rodent Operator	...	...	...	345
Total	...	...	...	354

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**Year ending March, 31st 1957.**

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other including business premises</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's Dist.	25	5,483	779	16	6,287
No. of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) By notification	2	84	27	—	113
(b) Survey under Act	2	14	117	—	133
(c) Otherwise ...	—	490	—	—	490
No. of properties Inspected which were found to be infested :					
(a) Rats : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	2	40	13	—	55
(b) Mice : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	2	44	14	—	60
No. treated by L.A.	4	84	27	—	115

The Councils sewers were treated twice during the year and all business premises surveyed and suitably treated where found necessary.

Warfarin is used for routine treatments and Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide for the treatment of sewers.

The use of Warfarin has had a profound effect on the extent and severity of Rodent Infestation, a fact which has been noticed and commented upon throughout the country. No one, of course, can disregard the valuable work done by local authorities in conjunction with the infestation division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the early years of the divisions formation under the Ministry of Food and despite the efficacy of Warfarin as a rodenticide, this early work has no doubt been the biggest factor in reducing the country's rat population to the figure that obtains today.

Perhaps the Division's biggest problem today is to find an infested building for use as a training ground for would-be operatives.

Notices Served.

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	59
Preliminary Notices Abated	...	...	...	37
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	36
Statutory Notices Abated	...	...	...	19

TABLE I.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

<i>Nature of Visits.</i>	<i>Visits.</i>
Accumulations	23
Animals	15
Bakehouses	6
Dangerous Buildings	5
Dirty Dwellings	19
Drainage	47
Factories	19
General Defects	149
Housing Investigations (Council Houses)	490
Interviews	45
Means of Escape in case of fire	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	21
Mortuary	12
Public Conveniences	59
Rats and Mice	9
Refuse Collection	2
Refuse Disposal	178
Scrap Metal Dealers	4
Sanitary Accommodation	31
Shops Act, 1950	167
Stables and Piggeries	15
Street Cleansing	219
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	2
Water Supply	23
Housing Act, 1949, Section 4	122
Licensed Premises	54

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TABLE II.

General House Defects.

<i>Defects and Nuisances.</i>						<i>Remedied.</i>
Defective Chimneys	8
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	33
Defective spouting	...	...	...	...	...	18
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective doors and furnishings			...	...	...	6
Defective ceiling plaster		...	...	...	...	23
Defective wall plaster	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defective firegrates and ovens	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Yards	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dilapidated window frames	...	...	...	...	...	52
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dirty dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	...	8
Main walls	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective staircases	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 246

TABLE III.

Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation.

<i>Defects and Nuisances.</i>						<i>Remedied.</i>
Obstructed drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	62
Defective or insufficient drainage	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective water closet roofs	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water closet doors and furnishings	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	17
Broken pans and joints	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dilapidated water closet compartments	...	...	...	...	...	12
New water closet compartments constructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Yards	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective water service	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<hr/> 134

TABLE IV.

General Nuisances.

<i>Defects and nuisances :</i>						<i>Remedied.</i>
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	23
						<hr/> 23

FACTORIES.

<i>Classification of Trades</i>				<i>Mech. Power</i>	<i>Non-Mech. Power</i>	<i>Total</i>
Abrasives	...	...	...	1	—	1
Bakers	...	...	...	5	—	5
Boot & Shoe Repairers	...	...	...	15	1	16
Brickyards	...	...	...	2	—	2
Builders Contractors	...	...	...	5	—	5
Carpenters	...	...	...	1	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers	...	...	...	2	—	2
Council Repair Depot.	...	...	...	2	—	2
Crown Corks	...	...	...	1	—	1
Dental Mechanics	...	...	...	2	—	2
Garages	...	...	...	11	—	11
Laundries	...	...	...	3	—	3
Monumental Masonry	...	...	...	1	—	1
Motor Spares—Firestone	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pasteurisation Plants	...	...	...	1	—	1
Potato Cleaning	...	...	...	1	—	1
Printers	...	...	...	1	—	1
Radio & Television Engr.	...	...	...	5	—	5
Steel Processing	...	...	...	1	—	1
Watch & Clock Repairers	...	...	...	—	1	1
Water Filtration Plants	...	...	...	2	—	2
N.C.B. Engineering Shop,	...	...	...	1	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	64	2	66

STAFF.

Captain Scott on the return journey from the South Pole in 1912 sat in his tent and described to the world, his four companions.

The words he uses to praise Wilson, Evans, Bowers and Oates, I can aptly use on my own four companions in this Department.

Mr. Batten, my Deputy, "quick, careful and dexterous, ever thinking of some fresh expedient to help the work." Mr. Batten has been with the Department nearly five years and his advice and his calm appreciation of problems have made him an invaluable second in command. His loyalty is beyond praise.

Mr. Crad Brace, the Public Cleansing Foreman, "a giant worker with a really remarkable headpiece....he has been an invaluable assistant....". Although these are the words Scott used to describe P.O. Evans they apply well to 'Crad.' He graduated from roadsweeper to driver and twelve years ago was appointed Public Cleansing Foreman. He has a wide and complete knowledge of the work and being a person with more than average common-sense and initiative, irons out problems on the spot, and rarely does he find it necessary to bring his problems to the office. He is a great asset to this office and a loyal and conscientious officer.

Miss Edwina Wright, "....little Bowers remains a marvel, nothing comes amiss to him and no work is too hard....", has now completed her sixth year in the Department and being designated Chief Clerk runs the office in an efficient manner. She has the ready and correct answer to all enquiries and has the whole administration on her finger tips. A very quick and intelligent officer.

Miss Beryl Penny, "....each is invaluable....now he is a footslogger and works hard the whole time. I would not like to be without him either," so writes Scott of Capt. Oates, and so can I write of Miss Penny. She is a steady plodder but gets the work done. She has taken as her responsibility all time sheets and wages and this she does efficiently and without fuss.

Scott ends this section of his diary with "...so our five people are perhaps as happily selected as it is possible to imagine....". And so it applies to this office as well as the outside staff—sweepers, loaders, drivers, public convenience attendants and also to the office cleaners, caretaker, and public mortuary attendant.

I tender my thanks and appreciation for a year of good work and a year free from labour troubles. Small, dissatisfactions have all been resolved satisfactorily over my office desk.

Our relations with other Departments have been of the happiest and there can be no question at all that the close co-operation that exists between this Department and that of Mr. J. L. J. Price, the Clerk/Solicitor of the Council, Mr. T. J. Jenkins, the Housing Manager, Mr. R. Herring, the Chief Financial Officer and Mr. F. R. Wharton, the Engineer/Surveyor, has done much to make our work in this Department easier and better.

Lastly, I must thank the members of the Council for the interest each has shown for the work for which this Department is responsible. While the Council is quick to criticize inefficiency, it is just as quick to praise good work and it is this attitude that keeps all Departmental heads "on their toes."

I remain,

Yours obediently,

O. GRIFFITHS.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

